



EMC News

June 5, 2002

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ENERGY COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kenny Christianson

The Energy Committee met on May 6 and June 3. At the May meeting, issues discussed included setting energy reduction targets for the County, developing a county purchasing policy, monitoring the library solar panels, and responding to the Governors' new Acid Deposition Reduction regulations and their effects on AES Cayuga. A Memorandum was sent to the County Board in support of fuel-neutral regulations. Members of the Energy Committee also gave a brief presentation to the Planning Committee on these issues on May 16.

At the June meeting, we reviewed the library solar panel data and explored various strategies for energy reduction including NYSERDA grants. Arel Lemaro of Public Works presented the most recent data from Powerlight concerning the library solar panels. From January 1 to May 22, 2002, the panels had generated 46,857 Kwh of electricity. We then discussed methods of evaluating the performance of the solar panels, and how to respond to recent negative press (see The Ithaca Journal May 30/31).

Finally, Kenny Christianson attended a public outreach meeting with the Public Service Commission in Syracuse on May 21. The purpose of the meeting was primarily consumer education and building partnerships for energy reduction programs. Discussions concerned energy competition, conservation, summer peak reductions, environmental disclosure, and meeting the needs of the growing elderly population. That evening, a brief presentation was provided to the Board of Representatives, including refrigerator magnets and the PSC's brochure of brochures.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - Please welcome Robert Wesley back to the EMC as an Associate Member and a new municipal member, Christian Boissonnas who represents the Town of Ulysses.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Submitted by Steven J. Uzmann

At our meeting on May 28 the ERC discussed their impressions on two site visits that members had made earlier in May.

- On May 3rd several members, along with two members of the BOR, the EMC coordinator and Katie Borgella, of the County Planning Department, visited the 100-acre County-owned Reforestation site in Newfield. This property is the subject of a proposal for natural gas exploration and leasing. The Committee anticipates an invitation to witness a "shot-hole" seismic survey that is expected to occur in the near future across this and adjacent properties.
- On or after May 13th, several ERC members made a second visit to the TC County Airport Obstruction Removal Project site. Members had previously visited the site in February, prior to the tree cutting and topping action which occurred in April.

Cornell-Community Waste Management Advisory Committee Liaison

Submitted by Kenny Christianson

Cornell has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Veterinary College's new waste management facility. The ERC's comments were received and adequately addressed. For an inaccurate account of the process, see The Ithaca Journal article of May 30, 2002.

CHECK IT OUT - The County Planning Department has a new website! You can find EMC agendas, minutes, and the *EMC News* there at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees.html>

MUNICIPAL REPORT – TOWN OF LANSING

Submitted by Larry Sharpsteen

In Lansing, the Planning Board is continuing review of the land use control (zoning) ordinance and planning a comprehensive plan review. Proposed modifications to the zoning ordinance will be presented to the Town Board for approval. The Planning Board is also reviewing a proposed PDA at the corner of Hillcrest and Triphammer (townhouses requested in a low density area). The Town is considering consolidation of existing water districts.

Municipal Reports not submitted – Town of Newfield, Village of Cayuga Heights (expected in July).

Municipal Reports due for July EMC News – Village of Freeville and Village of Lansing

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Heather McDaniel

On June 3rd I attended the New York State Association of EMCs annual Dec update meeting in Albany. Issues DEC summarized included: the State Environment Protection Fund FY 2002 – 2003 Budget, open space planning, Superfund reauthorization and other environmental legislation, the State Energy Plan, Phase II stormwater regulations, wetlands, and the proposed DEC Environmental Justice Policy. I was impressed to see that many of these State issues have been, or are currently being, addressed by the Tompkins County EMC. I will include a number of handouts about these issues in the EMC mail folder at the June meeting.

New Publication - Preserving Natural Resources Through Local Environmental Laws: A Guidebook for Local Governments, published by the Pace University Land Use Law Center, contains model statutes for zoning, erosion control, floodplains, tree preservation ordinances, etc. It is housed in the EMC library. Contact the EMC Coordinator, Heather McDaniel, at 274-5560 if anyone wants to borrow it. Copies can also be obtained, for a fee from Pace at (914) 422-4262.

**EMC RESOLUTION NO. 3-2002 -
SUPPORT FOR CONDUCTING A
NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR
DETAILED STUDIES OF SURFICIAL
AQUIFERS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the public health and the economic and environmental well-being of Tompkins County and its residents are dependent on safe and dependable supplies of drinking water, and

WHEREAS, water supplies in Tompkins County originate from, or mix with, underground water sources and aquifers,

WHEREAS, it is possible to perform detailed studies of these underground water supplies and aquifers to better understand their hydrologic characteristics, and

WHEREAS, a needs assessment for detailed studies of surficial aquifers in Tompkins County will determine the appropriate methods of investigation, and accurate cost estimates to complete detailed aquifer studies, and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the needs assessment for surficial aquifers in Tompkins County conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) is \$7,500, and

WHEREAS, the USGS will contribute 30% towards the cost of the needs assessment if Tompkins County enters into a contract with the USGS this fiscal year, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council urges the Tompkins County Board of Representatives to contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a needs assessment for the preparation of detailed aquifer studies in Tompkins County. *Passed Unanimously - May 8, 2002*

Save the Date – 2002 Conference on the Environment October 4-6 in Corning (sponsored by the New York State Association of EMCs & NYSACC).

Mark your calendar for July – **July 10th** EMC meeting location change – Old Jail Conference Room (125 E. court Street).

See you at the next meeting **Wednesday, June
12th**